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HIGH-LEVEL INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING ON THE
MID-TERM GLOBAL REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE LEAST
DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FOR THE 1990s
Meeting of Governmental Experts of
Donor Countries and Multilateral and
Bilateral Financial and Technical Assistance
Institutions with Representatives of the Least
Developed Countries
Geneva, 29 May 1995
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda, annotations to the provisional agenda and organization of work

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

3. Preparations for the Mid-term global review of progress towards the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s:

   (a) Review of progress in implementation at the country level;

   (b) Review of progress in international support measures;

   (c) Consideration of new measures for ensuring the full and effective implementation of the Programme over the second half of the decade

4. Other business

5. Adoption of the report.

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II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Election of officers

In accordance with normal practice, the Meeting may wish to elect a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, and a Rapporteur.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The provisional agenda in section I above has been drawn up by the UNCTAD secretariat in the light of General Assembly resolution 49/98, which decided to convene the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s in New York from 26 September to 6 October 1995, to be preceded by a one-day meeting of senior officials on 25 September 1995 and, inter alia, called for the Meeting of Governmental Experts of Donor Countries and Multilateral and Bilateral Financial and Technical Assistance Institutions with Representatives of the Least Developed Countries to be convened as part of the preparatory process for the High-level Meeting. Proposals for the organization of the work of the Meeting are given in section III below.

Item 3: Preparations for the Mid-term global review of progress towards the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s

The purpose of this Meeting is to provide substantive inputs to the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries. Taking into account the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, the Meeting will be devoted to:

(a) Review of progress in implementation at the country level;
(b) Review of progress in international support measures;
(c) Consideration of new measures for ensuring the full and effective implementation of the Programme over the second half of the decade.

The Trade and Development Board, at the second part of its forty-first session, has highlighted the following, among others, as elements for assessment of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action since its adoption in 1990 and possible conclusions and recommendations:

- Developments in the world economy since 1990 as they affect the growth and development performance of LDCs and lessons learned from adjustment and macro-economic and sectoral policy reforms;

- Provision of ODA and debt relief measures during the early 1990s and the implications of the enlargement of the list of LDCs, in particular for international support measures;

- The challenges posed by the ongoing processes of globalization and liberalization for the social and economic conditions in the LDCs;

- Implications of the occurrence of political and civil strife in a number of LDCs, in particular for their capacity to administer and manage their development;

- The substantive outcomes, as they relate to LDCs, of the major United Nations conferences, notably the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (1992), the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development (1995) and the Fourth World Conference on Women (September 1995);

- The coming into force of the World Trade Organization and the implications of the Final Act of the Uruguay Round for LDCs' trading opportunities.*/

For the consideration of these substantive items the Meeting will have before it the following documentation:

The Least Developed Countries 1995 Report
(TD/B/41(2)/4, UNCTAD/LDC(1995))

The Least Developed Countries 1995 Report, the eleventh in the series, was, as in the previous years, the main background document for the Trade and Development Board's annual review. It will also serve as the basic document for the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action scheduled for 26 September-6 October 1995. Consequently, this year's Report takes a retrospective look at

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*/ Taken from paragraph 6 of agreed conclusions 423 (XLI). (Initially circulated in TD/B/41(2)/SSC/L.2.)

the progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action since its adoption in 1990 and analyses the difficulties encountered in sustaining development. Chapter I analyses LDCs' economic and social performance during 1990-1994, and reviews in particular LDCs' experiences with adjustment and the design and implementation of reforms, and draws policy conclusions. Chapters II, III and IV examine the experiences and performance of LDCs in the agriculture, manufacturing and infrastructure sectors, respectively. Progress in the implementation of international support measures in the areas of official development assistance (ODA), debt and external trade is discussed in chapters V and VI. Annexed to the Report is the Basic Data series on the Least Developed Countries.

The following will also be available to the Meeting as background material:

Report of the Expert Group Meeting on Women in Development in the Least Developed Countries, (5 April 1995), (TD/B/LDC/GR/2)

In preparation for the High-level Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review UNCTAD organized an Expert Group Meeting on Women in Development in the Least Developed Countries. The Meeting took place in Niamey, Niger, from 24 to 26 January 1995. It was preceded by a one-day meeting of its Steering Committee on 23 January 1995. The Meeting adopted a report which focuses on specific priority areas in education, population and health, violence against women and special needs of women refugees, and examined women's participation in the productive sector as well as ways and means of incorporating women's concerns in mainstream development. The report also includes a Declaration which stresses the critical situation of women in these countries and highlights specific urgent measures, at the national and international levels, to enhance their participation in development both as agents and beneficiaries. The Declaration identified 20 principal measures, including international support and follow-up.

Report of the Expert Group Meeting on Fiscal Policy Reforms in the Least Developed Countries, (27 April 1995), (TD/B/LDC/GR/1)

In the recent past several LDCs have made considerable efforts to implement major tax revenue and expenditure reforms. In this context, the Meeting examined the question of fiscal policy reforms to promote economic growth and balance-of-payments adjustment in the LDCs. The Meeting, in its agreed conclusions, provided broad policy directions on fiscal reforms and also proposed concrete actions for the benefit of the LDCs.

Report of the Expert Group Meeting on Trade Diversification in the Least Developed Countries, (TD/B/LDC/GR/3)

The Meeting identified the constraints and the national and international measures required to facilitate trade diversification in LDCs. In the absence of concerted national and multinational efforts designed in particular to alleviate supply-side constraints, the trade position and economic weight of LDCs will remain marginal. The Meeting recognized that the problems faced by LDCs in enhancing their participation in world trade go far beyond the ambit of the multilateral trading system and the WTO.

Report by the Chairman of the Special Sessional Committee on his consultations with member States of UNCTAD, in pursuance of Trade and Development Board agreed conclusions as contained in document TD/B/41/(2)/SSC/L.2

Depending on the time available, the Chairman's report will be made orally or in writing.

In addition, the following previously issued documents are of relevance:

(a) Paris Declaration and Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries for the 1990s (UNCTAD/RDP/LDC/58).

(b) Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (A/CONF.147/18).

III. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The Meeting will open at 10 a.m. on Monday, 29 May 1995. It is scheduled to close on Friday, 2 June 1995.

It should be noted that this Meeting is the preparatory body for the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting. Its aim should, therefore, be to take stock of the past developments, draw lessons from the experience of the early 1990s, identify key areas requiring strengthened efforts and consider necessary measures for the remainder of the 1990s. To facilitate its work, the Meeting will also have reports of Expert Group Meetings on Women in Development, Fiscal Policy Reforms and Trade Diversification in the Least Developed Countries.

It is therefore suggested that a plenary and one working group be established. It is proposed that the general debate in plenary be concluded on the morning of Thursday, 1 June 1995, at the latest.

The allocation of items to the Plenary and the working group is as follows:

Plenary (a.m.)

General debate

Working Group (p.m.)

Review of progress in implementation at the country level (item 3(a));

Review of progress in international support measures (item 3(b));

Consideration of new measures for ensuring the full and effective implementation of the Programme over the second half of the decade (item 3(c)).

The Working Group should commence its work in the afternoon of Monday, 29 May and conclude on Wednesday, 1 June. Facilities may be made available for a second working group to meet simultaneously in the afternoon with the first Working Group should it become necessary.

The morning meetings will be scheduled from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and afternoon meetings from 3 to 6 p.m.